

Lunalilo's Tomb
Punchbowl and King Streets
(Kawaiahao Churchyard)
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS No. HI-15

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HI,
2-HONLU,
16-

PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LUNALILO'S TOMB

HABS No. HI-15

ADDRESS: Punchbowl and King Streets (in Kawaiahao Churchyard)

OWNER: Trustees of the Estate of William C. Lunalilo

USE: Tomb

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

King Lunalilo's tomb, one of the early concrete block buildings in Hawaii, was built at the direction of Lunalilo's will. Apparently because of disagreement with a rival branch of the royal family, Lunalilo chose to be buried in Kawaiahao Churchyard rather than the Royal Mausoleum.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A disagreement between rival branches of the royal family may be the reason for King Lunalilo's request to be buried in Kawaiahao Churchyard. The remains of many of the Hawaiian royalty had been buried at the old mausoleum on what is now the Iolani Palace grounds, but in 1865 when the new Royal Mausoleum in Nuuanu Valley was completed, most of them were removed to the new tomb. One of the exceptions was the High Chiefess Kekauluohi, mother of Lunalilo. Indignant about this act of disrespect by King Kamehameha V, Lunalilo vowed that he would not be buried at the Royal Mausoleum, but near his mother. There is some question whether Kekauluohi's bones remained in the old burial place. According to some accounts, they were removed by Lunalilo's family and buried at sea many miles off Diamond Head. (PCA, Mar 22, 1892, 5:2; THA, 1899, 86; SB, Oct 27, 1930, 6:4)

After Lunalilo became King in January 1873, he carried through his decision. On January 31, 1874, just four days before his death, the King approved a final codicil to his will, providing that a suitable

tomb for his remains and for those of his father, Charles Kanaina, be erected in Kawaiahao Churchyard. (Probate of Estate 2414:1) Upon his death, Lunalilo's casket was temporarily placed in the Royal Mausoleum at Nuuanu until his own tomb could be constructed.

At the request of the executor of Lunalilo's will, on September 19, 1874 the executive committee of Kawaiahao Church dedicated and set apart a site for the erection of the tomb on the west side of the Churchyard. (PCA, Mar 1, 1879, 4:3) Construction apparently began at the end of the year and was fully underway by January 1875. Robert Lishman, an Englishman who had come to Hawaii from Australia in 1871, was architect and supervisor of the construction. (PCA, July 10, 1875) By October 1875, the building was completed.

The tomb was one of the first buildings in Hawaii to be constructed of concrete block. It was built in the form of a Greek cross, approximately 11 feet square at the crossing. The roof was of slate and each of the four gables was topped by a small cross. On three sides were narrow stained glass windows. A small porch adjoined the entrance of the tomb. The floor was of smooth concrete and the interior walls of white stucco. The doors and all interior trim were made of stained oak. (HC, Oct 13, 1875, 3:2)

Over \$6,000 was spent for construction of the tomb.

The lot on which the building stands is enclosed on the mauka (front) and Waikiki (left) sides by an iron fence ordered from England. On the ewa (right) and makai (rear) sides, a stone wall was built and continued around the sides of the Churchyard facing King and Punchbowl Streets. (PCA, Jul 10, 1875, 3:5)

A smooth cemented carriageway leading from the entrance gates to the tomb circled around an open plot on which "rich exotics" were to be planted. Evergreens and other rare trees were also to be added to the grounds. (HG, Oct 13, 1875, 3:2) Early pictures show that the eight concrete pedestals which stand around the sides of the tomb were used to hold kahilis (royal standards). The suggestion was made that Lunalilo's father install chimes in the Kawaiahao bell tower in memory of the late King, which on the anniversary of his death could play "from sunrise to sunset solemn requiems." The suggestion, however, was not carried through.

The night of Tuesday, November 23, 1875 was chosen to transfer Lunalilo's casket to the new tomb. It was customary when necessary to transfer the remains of Hawaiian royalty from one tomb to another, to move them only at night, usually shortly after midnight. This procedure had been followed in 1865 when the new Royal Mausoleum was completed and it was also done at this time. It is said that Lunalilo's father, Charles Kanaina, requested that a royal salute be fired from the government battery on the crest of Punchbowl while the transfer of Lunalilo's remains from the Mausoleum to the new tomb was being made. On the grounds that Lunalilo was no longer King and thus not entitled to a salute, King Kalakaua refused. (Lorrin Thurston, Memories of the Hawaiian Revolution, 1936, 9) However, as the hearse carrying Lunalilo's casket moved into Kawaiahao Churchyard on November 23, a loud clap of thunder was heard. Some participants claimed, in fact, to have heard twenty-one distinct claps of thunder as the hearse made its way through the city to the new tomb. It was said by the Hawaiian people that this was a heavenly royal salute to their beloved King Lunalilo. (Adv., Apr 30, 1937, 4:6)

Lunalilo's casket, which was placed in the tomb, was made by William Fischer of native Hawaiian Koa and Kou wood. On it were three silver ornaments made by Mr. Eckart, a crown three to four inches in diameter, a ten by twelve inch plate inscribed in Hawaiian with Lunalilo's name, the dates of his life, and the length of his reign. This plate was surrounded by a wreath of maile leaves, also made of silver. Below this was a silver scroll with the inscription, Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono (The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.), the motto of the Kingdom first uttered by King Kamehameha III in 1843. The casket was covered with a black velvet pall on which six gilt Hawaiian coat-of-arms had been embroidered. (HG, Mar 4, 1874, 2:3) This was replaced in 1879 by a similar pall imported from Europe and reported to have cost nearly \$1,000. (PCA, Jan 20, 1879, 3:4)

Less than two years later, Lunalilo's father, Charles Kanaina, died, and his casket, also made of Koa and Kou wood, was placed in the tomb on March 29, 1877.

In 1879 a case was argued before the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Hawaii to determine the right of possession, care, and control of the tomb. The Legislature had appropriated \$400 annually as wages for a keeper of the tomb. This implied the right of the Minister of the Interior, as dispenser of the fund, to claim possession of the tomb. The Minister had, in fact, refused to surrender the keys to the trustees of the estate. (Int. Dept. BK 15, 229) The trustees held, however, that it was "quite plain" from Lunalilo's will that he wished his remains to be free of state control and the Legislature had incurred no obligation to pay for the tomb. The case was decided in favor of the trustees. (PCA, Mar 1, 1879, 4:3)

In 1888 it was found that care of the tomb had been much neglected, and an annual salary of \$250 for a keeper was provided by the estate. In addition, over \$300 was spent in repairing the tomb and painting the iron fence which enclosed the lot. (Probate File 2414:4, Annual Report of Trustees, Sept. 1888) Various other small repairs were undertaken in the ensuing years. In October 1917 vandals broke into the tomb, breaking the locks of the wooden doors to the building. The silver ornaments which adorned Lunalilo's casket were stolen, but detectives recovered them in Florida some time later. (Adv., Nov. 1, 1917, 5:7; Adv., Apr 30, 1927, 4:6)

On January 31, 1938 the first ceremony to be held at the tomb since Lunalilo's death took place. At the proceedings which marked the anniversary of Lunalilo's birth, the three royal kahilis (standards) which stood by his casket were to be replaced for the first time since 1874. (SB, Jan 25, 1938, 3:1) The ceremony began as the bearers of the new royal kahilis, accompanied by a guard of honor and other participants, marched from Honolulu Hale to the tomb. A red kahili was placed at the foot of Lunalilo's casket and a red and yellow kahili on either side. A bundle of ti leaves entwined with strands of crown flowers was placed on the head of the casket, which was draped with a royal blue velvet pall embroidered with the trimming of the original pall. A traditional rain shower fell during the ceremony at the tomb. (SB, Feb 1, 1938, 2:1)

In 1947 alterations and repairs amounting to over \$8,000 were undertaken at the tomb. Although unable to determine the exact nature of these alterations, it is probable that at this time the slate roof was replaced

with asbestos shingles. Two years later in 1949, marble vaults to enclose the caskets were constructed at a cost of \$2700. (Equity File 2414:7)

The tomb, which is usually closed to the public, is opened once each year on the anniversary of King Lunalilo's birthday.

Explanation of abbreviations in references:

Adv.	-	Advertiser
HG	-	Hawaiian Gazette
Int. Dept.	-	Interior Department
PCA	-	Pacific Commerical Advertiser
SB	-	Star-Bulliten
THA	-	Thrum's Hawaiian Annual

Prepared by,

Karmen N. Tiahrt

Karmen Tiahrt
State Archives
Honolulu, Hawaii

June 1967

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

General Statement:

Architectural interest and merit: This small mausoleum was erected according to the will of King Lunalilo to house his remains. Its architectural merit is two-fold: besides being one of the few Gothic Revival structures on the island of Oahu, it is one of the earliest constructions in concrete block in America.

Condition of fabric: The tomb is structurally sound, but peeling paint and pitting of the exterior finish is visible. On the interior, there is evidence of a leak in the upper left corner.

Detailed Description of the Exterior:

The building is a single story and a Greek cross in plan. There is an exterior porch extending beyond the entrance towards King Street. The overall dimensions are 23'-0-1/2" x 23'-0-1/2", excluding the angle buttresses and entrance porch. The latter measures 9'-2-1/2" wide and 9'-10" deep. The exterior height measures 28'-4-1/2" from the ground to the top of the coping at the peak of the gable, excluding the concrete cross which is an additional 1'-9-1/2" high. The interior floor to ceiling height is 22'-11-1/2".

Foundations: Although a small portion of the concrete foundation wall is visible, the depth and width are not accessible.

Wall construction: The exterior bearing walls are constructed of concrete blocks, measuring 1' - 0" high by 3' - 6" to 3' - 8" long. The face-to-face wall thickness is 1' - 4". The wall rises from a base consisting of 2 courses for an overall height of 3' - 0", projecting 3-1/4" beyond the face of the wall. The wall is further articulated by a moulded string course which is a continuous extension of the moulding at the imposts of the lancet arches on the entrance porch. The walls are extended at each exterior angle to form buttresses 1' - 6" wide with a 1' - 4" projection. These buttresses terminate in a double wash 13' - 3" above grade. The gable walls are extended 9-1/2" above the roof ridge by a coping, surmounted at each peak with a concrete cross of modified Avillon design, 1' - 9-1/2" square. At the lower end of the rakes, the copings form label-stops with small bracketed gables. There are moulded roundels, 2' - 6-1/2" in diameter high in the center of each gable. The roundels are solid except for quatrefoil openings, 5" across, which are open except for wire screening for ventilation.

All exterior wall surfaces are finished in smooth light buff-colored stucco with both vertical and horizontal joints visible.

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Structural system, framing: Existing roof framing behind the existing plaster ceiling is not accessible. The gardener, in service for approximately 20 years, states that he remembers when the ceiling was exposed wood resting on timber trusses. It is quite probable that the earlier framing was modeled after that of the Royal Mausoleum, constructed by a German architect, Theodore C. Heuck, in 1863. Concerning this building (the Royal Mausoleum), we are told that "the roof timbers from the four wings formed a dome over the center hall." Timber trusses were definitely used on the exterior porch of Lunalilo's Tomb. (see below)

Porch: The entrance porch, with pointed arched openings on three sides, rises 24' - 2-1/2" from the ground to the peak of the gabled coping, excluding the cross. The floor finish is concrete. The existing ceiling is modern concrete, replacing modified hammer beam trusses. Evidence of these trusses is found on the face of the entrance wall of the main structure. The approximate dimensions were ascertained. The hammer brace extended out 2' - 0" from the interior face of the wall. There was a horizontal spanning member 6" deep, which in turn supported an arched collar brace of undetermined dimensions, springing from the end of the hammer brace. The rafter was 8" deep. On the side walls, 2" x 12" pockets, now filled in, were spaced 2' - 1" at the intersection of the roof and the wall.

The porch floor is extended on all three open sides 2' - 0" beyond the face of the piers, from which concrete finished steps lead to grade. These steps consist of 5 risers at 7-1/2" and 4 treads at 1' - 3" including the moulded nosing.

Openings:

The single doorway opening consists of a Gothic lancet arch with a hood moulding. The double in-swinging flush wood doors, varnished, are 2-1/4", hung on 3 brass butts. Applied in relief on each of the doors is the royal cross, executed in wood. Two iron grille gates filling the opening are set on the exterior face of the jamb. The principal vertical and horizontal members are 1-1/2" square and the intermediate vertical rods are 3/4" in diameter, spaced 2-3/8" o.c. There is a single vertical locking bolt with recessed keepers in the center at the head and concrete sill, the latter being 1-1/2" above the interior floor. Each gate is hung on a single pintle embedded in the jamb, and a pivot embedded in the sill.

Two lancet windows are centered on the remaining three faces of the building. The interior wall opening is 1' - 3" wide and 6' - 1-1/2" high. The width of the opening on the exterior is 1' - 8-1/2". These two window openings are united by a pattern formed of quoins with an overall width of 5' - 6". Individual mouldings occur over each window. The sills and jambs of the reveal are splayed on the

exterior while the jambs only are splayed on the interior.. The wood window frames consist of 2-3/4" sill, 1-1/2" jamb and 2-1/4" vertical distance at the head, with an overall width of 11-1/2". There are 6 diamond-shaped panes arranged vertically 10-1/2" o.c. in the center of each window, flanked by half-diamond lights on each side. At the head of the lancet is a single trefoil light. Three of the six windows are of etched yellow and stained glass. The remaining three are glazed with patterned glass.

Roof: Four intersecting gables cover the main structure. The porch also has a gabled roof, the ridge of which is 23' - 0" above grade. All roofs are covered with modern asbestos shingles. A modern galvanized metal ventilator has been installed on the slope on the left side of the entrance wing. There are no cornices, dormers or towers.

Detailed Description of the Interior:

The floor plan is laid out as a single centralized cruciform space with the existing ceiling following the slopes of the four gabled roofs.

There are no stairways.

The cement underfloor is covered, wall to wall, with a modern red carpet. Walls and ceilings are finished in smooth white plaster, relieved only by the varnished wood of the simply moulded door trim which is 7" wide and flush with the plaster. There is no wood trim at the window openings which have 6-3/4" interior reveals.

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The sole decorative features of the interior are the three royal standards (kahilis) set in wood table-like stands. The kahilis are executed in red and black feathers and cloths, with one at the head of Lunalilo's Tomb, and one on each side in the arms of the cross.

Lunalilo's Tomb consists of a simple highly polished white marble sarcophagus centered under the crossing. It is 8' - 1" x 3' - 1/2" x 3' - 6" (including the 6" vert antique base). The top slab extends 1" on all sides. Read from the right side, the name, "Lunalilo," is incised in letters 11" high and 57" long. These are centered. The front end panel contains a carved royal crown.

Separated 3' - 1-1/2" on the right side is the tomb of Charles Kanaina, an exact duplicate of Lunalilo's except that the incised name, "Kanaina," 4" high and 22-1/2" long, begins 4" from the edge nearest the entrance rather than being centered.

There is no notable hardware, artifical lighting nor heating system.

Site and Surroundings

Located in the Honolulu Civic Center in downtown Honolulu, the mausoleum is on the roughly-southeast corner of the intersection of King and Punchbowl Streets. It is oriented in a north-northeast direction, the entrance facing King Street.

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It is enclosed separately within the enclosing walls of Kawaiahao Church (1842) grave yard, the wall common to both. This wall is coral rock stuccoed, 6' - 2-1/2" high to the crown of the coping. Enclosure of the other two sides of the tomb grounds is made by a stuccoed wall 2' - 0" high, surmounted with a decorative cast and wrought iron fence, 6' - 3", overall height. Enriched intermediate posts are 6" - 7-1/2" high. On the outside of this iron fence is the paved carriageway to the church. On the axis of the tomb entrance a double carriageway gate, flanked by pedestrian gates, leads to a circular carriageway before the tomb. This carriageway is paved with coral rock set in cement.

Located 10' - 6" away from the walls of the mausoleum are 8 free-standing pedestals, 2 on each side and 2 on the rear, symbolic of the 8 islands. These pedestals are 4' - 10-1/2" high, having a 1' - 6" square base. The shaft, 1' - 0" square, contains decorative panels. The base and the capstone are moulded.

The entire enclosure is landscaped with grass and a large variety of tropical plants and trees. These include the following: Maile scented fern (lauae), Ti, Royal poinciana, Monkey pod tree, Golden shower tree, Native fan palm (loulu), Coconut palm, Golden fruited palm, Queen sago palm, Croton, Plumeria, Pothos vine, Star jasmine,

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Alexandrian laurel (kamini), Shell ginger, Octopus tree (brassaia)
and Guava tree.

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